Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary dispute; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Karnataka have been holding discussions on this issue. The Government of India have preferred to await the outcome of these bilateral efforts.

North Zone Council meeting in Manali

594. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of North Zone Council was held on 26th October, 1985 in Manali; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the steps Government are taking to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of issues relating to economic and social development in the region were discussed. These included development of power projects, allocation of power, expansion of Radio/TV network, promotion of industries in backward areas, problem of Inter-State migrant workmen, control of Malaria etc. Further action to implement the recommendations of the Council will be taken by the concerned Central Ministries, Planning Commission and the State Govts./ Union Territories.

Indo-Soviet discussions on Plan financing

595. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Soviet discussion on financing of the Seventh Plan were held in November, 1985; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bureaucrats and politicians attending party hosted by businessman, alleged to be a bad character

596. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact of presence of several bureaucrats and local politicians at a party thrown by a businessman whom the local police files describe as a bad character;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the said inquiry;

(d) if answer to part (b) above is in the negative, whether an inquiry is proposed to be conducted now; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government is aware that a birthday party

was held at the farm house of Shri B.R. Chopra at Mehrauli and attended by some senior officers of the Central Government and the Delhi Administration as well as some prominent persons.

(b) to (e) A preliminary enquiry has been carried out and the matter is under examination.

Stopping the fishermen from fishing at Rameshwaram

597. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 1000 odd boats, which offered livelihood to the fishermen at Rameshwaram, are lying idle ;

(b) whether the State authorites have asked the fishermen to stop fishing in their traditional waters ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Central and State Governments to prevent harassment to the Indian fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) information is bring sought from the Tamil Nadu State authorities.

(c) Government had lodged strong protests with the Government of Sri Lanka. It was conveyed to them that even if Indian fishermen inadvertently cross the maritime boundary into Sri Lanka waters, they should be dealt with in a humane manner since this is a problem common to both the countries.

Government also took action to strengthen Coast Gaurd establishment and patrolling between Mandapam and point Calimere has been intensified Government have also taken steps to improve liaison with the Tamil Nadu State fisheries Department and Communications with the Sri Lankan Naval authorities to minimise recurrence of such incidents.

Killing of Indian Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

598. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Navy has prevented nearly 25,000 fishermen and their families living in Rameshwaram from fishing in their traditional fishing waters ;

(b) whether 28 fishermen have been killed and 1,003 boats destroyed so far thereby depriving them of their only means of livelihood and incurring an estimated daily loss of Rs. 20 lakhs; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India to save fishermen from Sri Lankan marauders ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : (a) There have been no reports of Sri Lankan Navy preventing Indian fishermen from fishing in Indian waters.

(b) According to information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu in July, 1985, 6 fishermen have been killed and 15 boats have been damaged or sunk since 1981.

(c) Government have lodged strong protests with the Government of Shri Lankan aginst incidents involving Indian fishermen. It was conveyed to the Sri Lankan authorities that even in case Indian fishermen inadvertently crossed the maritime boundary into Sri Lankan waters they should be dealt with in a humane manner since this problem is common to both the countries.

Government also took action to strengthen Coast Guard establishment